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Ministry of Advanced Education

TWO NEW DEGREE PROGRAMS OFFERED AT DOUGLAS COLLEGE

NEW WESTMINSTER – A new bachelor of arts in child and youth care and a bachelor of business administration will be offered at Douglas College, expanding opportunities for students and building on existing diploma programs, Advanced Education Minister Murray Coell announced today.

"Our students have asked for quality education and greater choice," said Coell. "These new degrees offered by Douglas College are providing more options for students to help them achieve their educational goals."

The bachelor of arts in child and youth care focuses on developing self-awareness, knowledge of key child and youth care principles and theory, and the application of theory in practice. Students entering this program will have the opportunity to specialize in youth justice, which builds on the college's existing youth justice diploma.

The bachelor of business administration is designed to prepare graduates for industry certification and designation. The program gives students the option of two majors: a financial services and administration major, unique to the Lower Mainland, and an accounting major, which is structured to meet the requirements of professional accounting designations.

"For many years, Douglas College has offered diploma programs that prepare students to enter the workforce at an introductory front-line worker position," said Douglas College president Susan Witter. "These fields now require degree level education to be employed in many front line, administrative and managerial positions. We are excited to be giving our students the skills they need to enter and advance in the workplace."

Both programs build upon the success of existing diploma programs and will begin in September 2007.

"We are the first province to create an independent board reviewing all new degree programs for both public and private institutions, ensuring quality in our post-secondary system," said Coell. "Students know that any new degree program offered at our post-secondary institutions will meet the standards they have come to expect when studying in B.C."

Since 2003, more than 120 undergraduate and graduate degrees have been approved. B.C. is improving its competitiveness and productivity through education and skills training, part of government's Pacific Leadership Agenda.

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